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FOR RELEASE: Noon, May 28, 1968

PRESS STATEMENT: Payment of U.S.S. Liberty death claims

On May 27, 1968 the Government of Israel paid the full amount of compensation claimed by the United States Government on behalf of the families of the thirty-four men killed in the June 8, 1967 attack on the U.S.S. Liberty. The compensation paid totalled $3,323,500. The check is now being transmitted from the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv to the Department of State. The Department, in turn, will transmit the check to the United States Treasury. Payment to members of the families of the deceased will be initiated as soon as the check has been deposited in the Treasury.

The Department of State is preparing other categories of claims, including claims on behalf of the men injured in the attack, for presentation to the Government of Israel as the necessary information becomes available.

Clearance (See Deptel 169872

NEA/IAI - Mr. Lambrakis
L - Mr. Salans
P - Mr. Ellis

L/S:EHKeyche/Rams 5/27/68

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S READING FILE:

We are informing interested members of Congress prior to noon, May 28, 1968, that the Government of Israel today presented to our Embassy in Tel Aviv a check for $3,323,500, which is the full amount claimed in the thirty-four U.S.S. Liberty death claims. A press statement will be made at the noon press briefing.

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Cleared by phone with:

H - Mr. Leahy
NEA/IAL - Mr. Lambrakis
P - Mr. Hartch